

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for applying a layer of a second material to a layer of a nanocrystalline first material that is disposed on a horizontal substrate, comprising:

a tubular dispensing means comprising a dispensing tube that is disposed substantially horizontally in a plane parallel to the horizontal substrate, wherein the dispensing tube includes a wall that defines a plurality of lateral outlet openings from which the second material is dispensed directly onto the layer of the nanocrystalline first material, wherein the lateral outlet openings are distributed along a length of the dispensing tube such that the second material is dispensed onto the layer of the nanocrystalline first material in a homogenous layer having a predetermined width,

a liquid container, and

conduit means for carrying liquid from the liquid container to the dispensing means.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising displacing means for displacing the dispensing means and the layer of nanocrystalline material relative to each other in lateral horizontal direction of the tubular dispensing means.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the displacing means comprise a carrier displaceable in a horizontal direction relative to the tubular dispensing means

for carrying and displacing a layer of nanocrystalline material in a lateral direction relative to the dispensing means.

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the displacing means comprise an XY table.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising heating means for heating a layer of a nanocrystalline material while the layer of the second material is applied.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the tubular dispensing means is connected at a first outer end to a first liquid supply line and is closed at a second outer end at a distal end of the dispensing tube.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the tubular dispensing means is connected at a first outer end to a first liquid supply line, and is connected at a second outer end to a liquid circulation line or a second liquid supply line.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the lateral outlet openings are provided in a top side of the horizontally disposed dispensing tube.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the dispensing tube has a circular outer periphery in vertical cross-section.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the conduit means comprise a liquid metering pump.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for applying a layer of a second material to a layer of a nanocrystalline first material, said layer of a nanocrystalline first material being provided on a horizontal substrate, said apparatus comprising:

a liquid container for containing a liquid with the second material;

a tubular dispensing means comprising a dispensing tube that is disposed substantially horizontally in a plane parallel to the horizontal substrate, wherein the dispensing tube includes a wall that defines a number of lateral outlet openings from which the second material is dispensed directly onto the layer of the nanocrystalline first material, wherein the lateral outlet openings are distributed along a length of the dispensing tube such that the second material is dispensed onto the layer of the nanocrystalline first material in a homogenous layer having a predetermined width; and

conduit means for carrying liquid from the liquid container to the dispensing means.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the tubular dispensing means is connected at a first outer end to a first liquid supply line, and is connected at a second outer end to a second liquid supply line.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the tubular dispensing means is connected at a first outer end to a first liquid supply line, and is connected at a second outer end to a liquid circulation line.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the lateral outlet openings are provided in the top side of the horizontally disposed dispensing tube.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the dispensing tube has a circular outer periphery in vertical cross-section.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the conduit means comprise a liquid metering pump.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for applying a layer of a second material to a layer of a nanocrystalline first material, said layer of a nanocrystalline first material being provided on a horizontal substrate, said apparatus comprising:

a liquid container for containing a liquid with the second material;

a tubular dispensing means comprising a dispensing tube that is disposed substantially horizontally in a plane parallel to the horizontal substrate, wherein the dispensing tube includes a wall that defines a number of lateral outlet openings from which the second material is dispensed directly onto the layer of the nanocrystalline first material, wherein the lateral outlet openings are distributed along a length of the dispensing tube such that the second material is dispensed onto the layer of the nanocrystalline first material in a homogenous layer having a predetermined width, said lateral outlet openings being provided in a top side of the dispensing tube; and

conduit means for carrying liquid from the liquid container to the dispensing means.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the tubular dispensing means is connected at a first outer end to a first liquid supply line, and is connected at a second outer end to a second liquid supply line.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein the tubular dispensing means is connected at a first outer end to a first liquid supply line, and is connected at a second outer end to a liquid circulation line.